

FFCS 1002-2:2003, Criteria for Group Certification for the Area of a Forest Management Association

This document is an unofficial translation (23 March 2004) of the original Finnish standard FFCS 1002-2:2003 text.

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1. Introduction

This standard belongs to the series of eight standards of the Finnish Forest Certification System (FFCS) preceded by a series of SMS standards elaborated in 1997-1998.

The other standards in the series address the application of the forest certification system, forest certification criteria, verification of chain of custody of wood, auditor qualifications and vocabulary.

The Working Group on Forest Certification Standards has approved this standard in its meeting in 29 September 2003.

The series of FFCS standards are administered and possessed by the Finnish Forest Certification Council (Suomen Metsäsertifiointi ry).

2. Scope and Field of Application

This standard defines the criteria for group certification and the related indicators and definitions to be applied in group certification for the area of a forest management association.

3. Criteria for Group Certification for the Area of a Forest Management Association

Title	1. The requirements enacted by legislation are complied with
Criterion	<p>Forest management activities comply with the existing forest, environmental and labour legislation in force.</p> <p>However, in Åland Province the legislation of Åland and authority decisions are applied in the cases they are related to the autonomy of Åland Province.</p>
Indicators	<p>The forest, environmental and labour legislation in this criterion comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996) - Forest Act (1093/1996) - Wilderness Act (62/1001) - Act on Control of Damages Caused by Insects and Fungi (263/1991) - Act on Trade in Forest Reproductive Material (241/2002) - Water Act (264/1961) - Working Hours Act (605/1996) - Occupational Safety and Health Act (738/2002) - Antiquities Act (295/1963) - Act on Reindeer Herding (848/1990) - Act on the Sámi Parliament (974/1995) - Act on Outdoor Recreation (606/1973) <p>and the lower level regulations enacted for above-mentioned laws.</p> <p>Forest organisations¹⁾ are obliged to inform certification body (external auditor) on the request on the court resolutions and authority decisions²⁾, on the cases where the activity of forestry actor or forest organisation has been in contrary to the forest, environmental and labour legislation during the validity of certificate.</p>
Definitions	<p>1) <u>Forest organisations</u> consist of forestry centres, forest management associations, forest industry enterprises, Metsähallitus, and other organisations committed to certification.</p> <p>2) <u>Court or authority</u> has found in its <u>resolution (right to appeal)</u> that forestry actor or forest organisation has acted contrary to the law referred in the indicator. The authority decisions contain, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest centre's order on establishing a new tree stand enacted by Section 15, subsection 3 of the Forest Act - Environment centre's order enacted by Section 57 subsection 1 of the Nature Conservation Act - Order of authority on occupational safety enacted by Section 15 subsection 2 of the Act on Control of Occupational Safety and its appeal (deficiencies or defects in constructions, equipment or conditions).

Title	2. Spreading the infection of root rot is prevented
Criterion	<p>For preventing the spreading of the infection of root rot (<i>Heterobasidion parviporum</i> attacking spruce and <i>H. annosum</i> attacking pine) in their geographical <u>areas at risk</u>⁽³⁾ in 1.5.-31.10. forest owner is <u>provided</u>⁽⁵⁾ with control measures if harvesting during 1.5. – 31.10 on <u>sites at risk</u>⁽⁴⁾. The share⁽⁷⁾ of user-safe <u>control measures</u>⁽⁶⁾ is increased.</p> <p>The share of control measures can, in particular reasons, temporarily decrease in one year during the certification period in those areas, in which the share of control measures has already achieved 75%.</p>
Indicators	The increase in the share of control measures in logging operations on sites at risk is assessed, based on the information obtained from wood procurement organisations in forestry centre area.
Definitions	<p>3) <u>Geographical areas at risk</u> are defined as areas entitled to a financing for control of root rot based on the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry (1094/1996).</p> <p>4) <u>Sites at risk</u> are defined as logging areas, which are entitled to financing for control of root rot based on the Act on the Financing of Sustainable Forestry.</p> <p>5) <u>To provide</u> control measures means that the offer of control measures are presumed in harvesting and wood procurement guidelines of the forest organisations harvesting wood.</p> <p>6) <u>Control measures</u> include the treatment of coniferous stumps with liquid <i>Phanerochaete gigantea</i> and urea and the removal of coniferous stumps causing the spreading the infection of fungal diseases from regeneration area. Regeneration areas, from which the stumps are removed, are included in the area under control measures.</p> <p>7) <u>The share of control measures</u> is calculated as a proportion of treated area to all the logged area in areas at risk.</p>

Title	3. Finnish native tree species are used in forest regeneration
Criterion	In forest regeneration, except in special cases ⁽⁹⁾ , native Finnish tree species ⁽⁸⁾ are used.
Indicators	A summary report on the regeneration area of other than native Finnish tree species has been prepared annually.
Definitions	<p>8) Siberian larch (<i>Larix sibirica</i>) is considered as a <u>native Finnish tree species</u>. Its annual regeneration area has been to below 1 000 ha/a (approximately 0.0005% of the total forest area) in the recent years.</p> <p>9) <u>Special cases</u> are for instance establishment of park forest stand, production of Christmas trees and conifer twigs, stands and trees planted for landscape management, and cultivation of hybrid aspen (<i>Populus tremula x tremuloides</i>). Hybrid aspen is a crossbreed of domestic and North-American aspen and it has been cultivated in Finland already in the 1960s. The annual planting area of hybrid aspen has been approximately 100-200 ha in the recent years. From 1997 to 2002 the total area was below 1 000 ha (approximately 0.0005% of the total forest area).</p>

Title	4. Avoidance of forest harvesting damage in thinnings
Criterion	<p>In forest harvesting, damages to remaining trees and soil that may deteriorate the growing conditions for the remaining stand, are avoided.</p> <p>The average share of damaged trees⁽¹⁰⁾ in intermediate thinnings does not exceed 4% of the number of the trees left growing⁽¹⁰⁾. The share of damaged trees is annually calculated as a five-year period moving average of harvesting trace review results.</p> <p>In intermediate thinnings, the average share of depressed traces⁽¹⁰⁾ caused by harvesting machines does not exceed 4% of the length of extract traces. The share of depressed trails is annually calculated as a five-year period moving average of harvesting trace review results.</p>
Indicators	The extent of the damages and depressed trails are compared with the threshold values defined by criterion.
Definitions	10) <u>Damaged tree, tree left growing, and depressed trace</u> and the other terms used in measuring the damages are defined in valid field assessment guidelines of the Forest Development Centre Tapio (latest 2003).

Title	5. Forest management planning promotes sustainable forest management
Criterion	The coverage of holding-level forest management plans ⁽¹¹⁾ is at least 50% of the area of the forest holdings ⁽¹²⁾ not less than 20 hectares. In regional forest management planning, holding-level forest management plans are provided for the holdings with an area less than 20 hectares. The new forest management plans include, in addition to wood procurement aspects, natural sites ⁽¹³⁾ and consider other uses of forests ⁽¹⁴⁾ according to the management objectives of the forest owner.
Indicators	The area of valid ⁽¹⁵⁾ holding-level forest management plans is compared with the corresponding area of forestry land.
Definitions	<p>11) <u>Holding-level forest management planning</u> contains the compartment specific inventory of holding's forest resources and the integration of inventory summary results into a holding-level forest management plan. Continually updated holding-level forest management plans, which have annually been updated according to completed measures and other relevant information, are included in the area of holding-level forest management planning. Holding-level forest management plan must include, as forest production factors, stand specific data on trees and soil, needs of silvicultural treatments, and allowable cut.</p> <p>12) <u>Forest holding</u> is an entirety consisting of forest stands owned by a forest owner.</p> <p>13) <u>Natural sites</u> included in forest management plans are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Areas included in national nature conservation programmes ratified by the Council of State but currently unaccomplished . - Habitats of special importance defined in criterion 9 and recognised habitats of threatened species defined in criterion 10, - Nature management and environmental sites funded by State. <p>14) Important areas on <u>other uses of forests</u> contain, e.g.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Important game management areas, e.g. capercaillie mating sites, - Trails for outdoor recreation and hiking. <p>15) <u>The time of validity of the forest management plans</u>, not under continuous updating, referred to in this criterion, is 10 years in southern Finland, and</p>

	15 years in Kainuu and northern Ostrobothnia province, and 20 years in Lapland.
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Title	6. Seedling stands are tended
Criterion	Annually at least 60% of the annual tending need of seedling stands ¹⁶⁾ in the area of a forest management association is completed.
Indicators	The tended areas of seedling stands are annually monitored and the results are compared with the estimated tending needs in the area of the forest management association.
Definitions	16) <u>Tending need of seedling stand</u> in the area of a forest management association is the seedling tending area, valid in the beginning of certification period, defined in forest management plans and extrapolated to the total area of the forest management association, (areas where tending works are delayed and where they should be implemented in the following 5-year period).

Title	7. Promotion of first thinnings and delivery logging in private forests
Criterion	During one year after the application for a certificate, a programme on measures for the promotion of first thinnings ⁽¹⁷⁾ is drafted and the completion of promotion activities related to programme and the annual need of first thinnings are assessed. The forest management association and the most significant forest industry companies ⁽¹⁸⁾ elaborate within their area, during one year after the introduction of the revised criteria, a programme ⁽¹⁹⁾ on measures for promotion of delivery logging ⁽²⁰⁾ made by private forest owners.
Indicators	The programme on the measures is revised or elaborated and jointly ratified by the parties involved.
Definitions	17) <u>Programme on measures for promotion of first thinnings</u> means a list of measures, which contribute to the facilities of first thinnings. The objective is to improve the competitiveness of first thinnings in relation with other logging types. The programme of measures does not include any timber trade obligations. The timber trade occurs under the free market rules. 18) <u>The most significant forest industry enterprises</u> mean the enterprises, which procure pulpwood directly from private forests for their pulp and paper mills in Finland. 19) <u>Programme of measures for delivery logging</u> is a list of measures, which contribute to the facilities of <u>delivery logging</u> made by forest owner. The objective is to improve the competitiveness of <u>delivery logging</u> in relation with other logging types. The programme of measures does not include any timber trade obligations. The timber trade occurs under the free market rules. 20) <u>Delivery logging made by forest owner</u> is the <u>delivery logging</u> carried out by forest owner and member of his/her family or by a logger he/she has occasionally employed.

Title	8. Conservation value of protected areas and sites included in ratified national nature conservation programmes are not endangered
Criterion	Conservation value of protected areas ⁽²¹⁾ and sites included in ratified national nature conservation programmes ²²⁾ is not endangered by forestry measures.
Indicators	Forestry centre and forest management associations, wood procurement organisations and Metsähallitus acting in the area, and by other committed parties as deemed necessary are aware of the location of protected areas and the ratified national nature conservation programmes.
Definitions	<p>21) <u>Protected areas</u> are the nature conservation areas established according to Section 3 of the Nature Conservation Act. The boundaries of these areas have been demarcated in field and informed to forest owners by regional environment centre.</p> <p>22) <u>Ratified national nature conservation programmes</u> refer to the unaccomplished parts of the conservation programmes ratified by the Council of State.</p>

Title	9. Typical features of habitats of special importance are preserved
Criterion	<p>Forest management measures are planned and carried out respecting the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protected forest-covered nature types in natural state or equivalent to natural state, defined in Sec. 29 of the Nature Conservation Act (1096/1996), of which forest owner has been informed according to Section 30 of the Nature Conservation Act, are not allowed to be altered in a way that the preservation of their characteristic features is endangered. The measures allowed to be carried out on the site by an environmental authority are permitted. b) The management measures on sites in natural state or equivalent to natural state and habitats of special importance which can be recognised easily from their surrounding and defined in Section 10 in the Forest Act (1993/1996) must be carried out in away, which preserves their characteristic features. The measures on sites, for which forest authority has given a permit based on Section 11 in the Forest Act, are allowed. c) In addition, the most important characteristics of biological diversity in the majority of the rare sites and sites becoming rare, listed below, are preserved forest management operations. The most characteristic features of a habitat are in a natural state, and the area of the habitat does not exceed one hectare, as well as the habitat can be clearly observed and recognised in field. <p>The most important characteristic features in rare habitats and habitats becoming rare referred to in the point c) and the measures to be taken for their preservation are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alluvial forests and flood meadows The most important characteristics of naturally flooding water logged forests and peatlands bordering to sea, lakes, rivers, and streams is the natural variation of surface water level, which is protected by restraining from ditching and soil scarification on these areas. Tree stands of these habitats can be treated with intermediate thinnings and selective type regeneration felling . 2. Herb-rich swamps High surface level of ground water is a main characteristic of natural herb-rich/ hardwood-spruce swamps, including also other than fertile herb-rich/ hardwood-spruce swamps of special importance defined in the Forest Act, being in a natural state, containing plenty of decaying wood, usually spruce dominated. This is maintained by not ditching the sites. Tree stand of herb-rich /hardwood-spruce swamp can be treated with intermediate thinnings and regenerated with shelterwood and selective fellings. 3. Fens in Lapland province Exceptionally high nutrient content, water relations, and generally diverse vegetation are he main characteristics of fertile, treeless or sparsely wooded fens in calciferous and usually areas of high ground water, These fens are preserved by restraining from ditching on these areas. The tree stand can be treated with intermediate thinnings and selective type regeneration felling. 4. Southern ridges, kettle holes Sunny microclimate and forest fires have created habitats for species distinguishable from their surroundings, growing on southern ridges. Sunny microclimate shall be preserved by removing trees and using prescribed burning but avoiding soil scarification. Ground vegetation, distin-

	<p>guishable from its surroundings, created by humid and cool, cellar-like microclimate is the feature to be preserved in steep spruce-dominated large pits, kettle holes on ridges. The vegetation shall be preserved by restricting logging only to the highest part of a kettle hole.</p> <p>5. Old-growth forests</p> <p>Old-growth forests valuable for nature conservation are forests, where the dominating tree stand is usually significantly older (more than 1.5 times) than the recommended forest rotation age in the area. The stand in old-growth forest consists usually of trees of different sizes and species forming several canopy layers, or the forest is a spruce stand of a late succession stage. The tree stand has not been treated by selective cutting, intermediate thinning or preparatory felling for the past 60 years. The stand is composed of old broad-leaved trees, plenty of (at least 20% of the tree stand) decaying trees, snags and ground trees. Abundance of aspen, sallow and valuable broad-leaved species adds to the nature conservation value of the stand. Restraining from forestry operations on these sites preserves the typical features.</p>
Indicators	<p>The preservation of habitats of special importance in forestry measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Court decisions on the cases, where the preservation of characteristic features of the sites based on the Nature Conservation Act section 29, have been endangered. Court decisions on the cases, where the typical features of habitats of special importance based on Forest Act section 10, have not been preserved. The provisional permits based on Forest Act section 11 and accorded by a forestry centre have been justified. All or almost all of the characteristic features on other valuable habitats have been preserved according to nature management assessment. <p>In the points a) and b) all or almost all of the characteristic features are not preserved according to the criterion if operations carried out violate either on purpose or on negligence the Nature Conservation Act or Forest Act.</p> <p>In the point c) "almost all" means that the most important characteristic features to be preserved in the habitats listed have been preserved in more than 90% of the total area of sites.</p> <p>All forests fulfilling the above mentioned characteristics of old-growth forest are considered as old growth regardless of stand size, in forest holdings of over 10 000 ha in the region.</p> <p>Protection of old growth-forest as defined in this criterion does not apply if the share of protected forests exceeds 5% on a forest holding.</p>
Definitions	

Title	10. Known habitats of endangered species are safeguarded
Criterion	<p>Forest management procedures safeguard,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the known habitats of specially protected²³⁾ species, if they are demarcated and informed to the land owner/ manager by the regional Environment Centre, - the known habitats of other endangered species²³⁾ by taking them into consideration according to the instructions of regional Environment Centre. At

	least the current populations of these species shall be maintained
Indicators	The habitats of the specially protected species, that the regional Environment Centre has demarcated and informed to the land owner and /or manager according to the section 47 of the Nature Conservation Act, and the related management guidelines or recommendations provided to the land owner and /or manager.
Definitions	23) <u>The list of specially protected species and other endangered species</u> is in Annex 4 of the Decree on Natures Conservation (160/1997), threatened species.

Title	11. Retention trees are left on regeneration areas
Criterion	<p>In fellings and forest management activities, snags, hollow and other decaying trees, hole trees, single windfalls, tree specimens from the previous tree generation, exceptional individual trees, nest trees of raptorial birds, large junipers, large aspens and treelike sallows, and trees with fire scar, are left.</p> <p>If the above mentioned retention trees cannot be found on a regeneration area, storm resistant trees valuable for biological diversity²⁴⁾ and which have a good potential to develop into old trees, are left to grow.</p> <p>There shall be at least 5 to 10 standing trees per hectare left on a regeneration area, either dead or alive. At breast height the trees shall be at least 10 cm in diameter.</p>
Indicators	
Definitions	24) In regeneration felling the trees left in buffer zones as referred to in the criterion 16 are included in the number of retention trees. The retention trees are primarily left in groups and in close vicinity to habitats of special importance listed in the criterion 10 when ever possible. Retention trees must not be left in close vicinity to important constructions, such as traffic lanes or electric and telephone lines.

Title	12. Gene modified seed and plant material is not used
Criterion	Gene modified material or other material, which is not approved by the authority ⁽²⁵⁾ , is not used in seeding and planting.
Indicators	Information from authorities responsible for the enforcement of the Act on Trade of Forest Reproductive Material (241/2002) indicates that gene modified material has not been used in seeding and planting.
Definitions	25) The authority responsible for monitoring of trade of forest cultivation material and approval of forest cultivation material in Finland is the Inspection Centre for Plant Production (KTTK, <i>Kasvintuotannon tarkastuskeskus</i>).

Title	13. Forest road plans include an environmental impact assessment
Criterion	The plans for new, permanent forest roads ⁽²⁶⁾ drafted by forest organisations ¹⁾ include a study on environmental values. The forest road network master plan, in which the traffic needs and the environmental impacts have been evaluated, is taken into consideration in construction of new, permanent forest roads.
Indicators	The environmental impact assessment must include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) An assessment of impacts of road construction on preservation of the characteristic features of following sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - protected areas and unaccomplished parts of the national nature conservation programmes ratified by the Council of State - habitats of special importance (Criterion 9) - habitats of specially protected species (Criterion 10) - sites reserved and demarcated on forest owners decision or in community planning for game management, recreation, etc. b) An assessment of the impacts of road construction on watercourses in the area of impact and the necessary water protection measures.
Definitions	26) <u>Forest road</u> is a private road, which is constructed mainly for the purpose of forestry related transportation and to be used throughout the year. Logging and winter trails are not forest roads as referred to in this criterion.

Title	14. Diversity of species dependent on burned areas and forest health are promoted by prescribed burning
Criterion	The area of prescribed burning during the period of certification equals at least to the area under prescribed burning during the period 1998-2002. Private forest owners are informed ²⁷⁾ on the opportunities for prescribed burning. This criterion is not applied in the Åland Province.
Indicators	Areas of prescribed burning carried out for restoration purposes in conservation areas or production forests are included in the total area. The private forest owners have been informed on feasibility of prescribed burning as a soil treatment method on regeneration areas and on the opportunity to receive state financial support for prescribed burning.
Definitions	27) Information channels are e.g. newspaper articles, bulletins, and contacts with forest owners, who have suitable sites for prescribed burning.

Title	15. Bufferzone is left along watercourses and small water bodies to capture solid and nutrient run-off
Criterion	A buffer-zone is left along watercourses and small water bodies ²⁸⁾ for capturing solid and nutrient run-off. Soil surface on buffer-zones is not broken in harvesting, nor it is scarified or fertilized or treated with chemical pesticides or herbicides.
Indicators	Logging and silvicultural activities can be carried out in a buffer-zone. If over 90% of the soil surface remains intact the buffer-zone has been maintained as appropriate in timber harvesting.
Definitions	28) <u>Watercourses and small water bodies in this criterion</u> include seas, lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and springs.

	29) The width of a <u>buffer-zone</u> is at least 3-5 meters taking into account slope of the terrain, soil type and harvesting conditions.
Title	16. Peatland nature is preserved
Criterion	<p>First-time draining³⁰⁾ is not carried out on peatlands in a natural state³¹⁾</p> <p>Ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching are made only in the areas, where ditching has increased significantly the tree growth³²⁾.</p> <p>The rare peatland types and the peatland types becoming rare³³⁾ and the possibilities of their restoration into a natural state are especially taken into consideration in the planning of ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching.</p>
Indicators	
Definitions	<p>30) <u>A peatland in a natural state</u> is a peat accumulating ecosystem, where there are no human induced changes on the natural water balance or any other significant traces of human activities. The site is peatland if the ground is covered with a peat layer, or if over 75% of the ground vegetation consist of peatland vegetation. Forests, regularly tended by thinnings, and not included in the habitats of special importance as defined in criterion 10, are not considered as natural peatlands as defined in this criterion.</p> <p>31) <u>First-time draining</u> does not include the preparation of single ditches in natural peatlands for necessary technical reason on draining. Parts of old drainage areas, which are not ditched, can be drained in connection with the ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching if the drainage is appropriate and it does not endanger significantly the biodiversity of peatland and forest. The criterion does not restrict the possible regulation of water balance in accordance with the Forest Act on peatland regeneration areas nor the ditchings addressed in the Act on Further Reorganisation of Farm Boundaries (24/1981).</p> <p>32) <u>Ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching</u> must be economically efficient taking into consideration the nutrient content, heat sum (number of growing degree days) and the volume of tree stand.</p> <p>33) <u>Rare peatland types and peatland types becoming rare</u> refer to the peatland types, which are listed in Annex 3 of Environmental Guidelines to Practical Forest Management (Metsähallitus 1997).</p>
Title	17. Water protection is safeguarded in draining sites
Criterion	Forest organisations' plans for ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching include a water protection plan. The planned water protection measures have been implemented as appropriate taking into account the recommendations valid in the time of implementation.
Indicators	<p>Guidelines for planning of ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching require the elaboration of a water protection plan. The water protection plan contains among other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts of the measures related to ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching on the water levels of watercourses - consideration of habitats of special importance as defined in the criterion 9. - risks for erosion in ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching - slope if the terrain and water conduct away from ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching area and - water protection measures and their extent.

	Adequate information on plans for ditch cleaning and supplementary ditching and water protection have been delivered to environment centre for an optional statement.
Definitions	

Title	18. The quality of groundwater areas is not deteriorated with chemical pesticides or fertilizers
Criterion	Chemical pesticides and herbicides are not used ³⁴⁾ on the groundwater areas that are important (Class 1) or suitable (Class 2) sources of water supply ³⁵⁾ . Fertilizers are not used in the groundwater areas that are important (Class 1) sources of water supply ³⁴⁾ .
Indicators	The forest organisations ¹⁾ have in use or access to the information on the location of the groundwater areas, which are important (Class 1) and suitable (Class 2) sources of water supply. The restrictions on the use of pesticides and herbicides as well as fertilizers have been taken into consideration in the working instructions and recommendations of forest organizations.
Definitions	34) <u>Groundwater</u> in Finland is classified as an important source of water supply (Class 1), suitable sources of water supply (Class 2) and other ground water areas (Class 3) based on their suitability and protection need. 35) Treatment of seedlings in a nursery with pesticides against pine weevil is not considered as the <u>use</u> of pesticides referred to in this criterion.

Title	19. Use of chemical herbicides and pesticides is avoided in forest management
Criterion	Broad-leaf brush is not treated, in forest regeneration areas or in young stands, with chemical foliage sprays, unless necessary to prevent the spread of fungal diseases through aspen brush in young Scots pine stands. Chemical pesticides or herbicides are not used in the habitats of special importance referred to in the Criterion 9. Chemical pesticides and herbicides are used only when unavoidable as, for instance, for the control of ground vegetation on forest regeneration areas, stump treatment of broadleaved trees and for controlling the pine weevil and treatment of coniferous timber storages in the vicinity of forests to prevent spreading of insect damages into the forests.
Indicators	The restrictions on the use of chemical pesticide and herbicides has been taken into consideration in forest organisations' work instructions and recommendations.
Definitions	

Title	20. Employees' competence and ability to work are safeguarded
Criterion	Employees' adequate professional competence ³⁶⁾ and ability to work in the designated tasks shall be ensured.

Indicators	<p>Employer³⁷⁾ has a document or another evidence, which indicates that employer has been assured on the required and adequate competence of an employee for the task and that employer has taken care the capacity building during the employment.</p> <p>Employer has the documents on the first and check-up examinations stipulated in the Act on Occupational Health Service (1383/2001)</p> <p>In forest organizations employing at least³⁸⁾ 10 employees, activities appropriate to the conditions and aiming at maintaining the ability to work, are arranged</p>
Definitions	<p>36) <u>Adequate professional competence</u> can be achieved by either professional education or by work experience.</p> <p>37) <u>Employer</u> refers to an employer registered in Trade Register. The information on the registered employers is available in Finnish Business Information System (BIS). (www.ytj.fi)</p> <p>38) Amount of employees on 31 December.</p>

Title	21. Preconditions for the high quality and safe working are ensured
Criterion	Contractors and employees are given adequate information and instructions for doing safely a high quality work.
Indicators	<p>Employer³⁹⁾ has provided or taken care of that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - contractor/employee has general and safety guidelines related to his work - contractor/employee is given orally, written or by email the work site and task specific guidelines that include quality, environmental and other requirements⁴⁰⁾ - contractor/employee is aware of the possible aspects and field sites endangering the work safety - guidelines on improving harvesting conditions on the thinning of young stands are in use.
Definitions	<p>39) The term <u>employer</u> refers to either an employer or a contracting party listed in the Trade Register, a manager of the timber harvesting site or an employer to a subcontractor. Information on the registered employers is available in the Finnish Business Information System (BIS), www.ytj.fi.</p> <p>40) An <u>other requirement</u> e.g., removal of logging residues on hiking trails if so agreed among forest owner and parties responsible for trail maintenance.</p>

Title	22. Adherence to statutory obligations of employers
Criterion	<p>Employers and contracting parties⁴¹⁾ comply with labor/ employment legislation and collective labor agreements in force and require also the compliance from their sub-contractors.</p> <p>Employers and contracting parties have paid taxes, social security fees and employment pension fees.</p>
Indicators	<p>Employer is aware of the obligations of the Act on Working Time including work time accounting and the employer has procedures to ensure the compliance with the legislation in force.</p> <p>Employee and employer organizations are requested to give statements on possi-</p>

	<p>ble violations of collective labour agreements or legislation controlling working hours.</p> <p>Contracting parties shall have guidelines on service contracting and extracts verifying that sub-contractors belong to the prepayment register and have documents on paid taxes and employment pension fees (LEL, TEL, YEL).</p> <p>Employer/contracting party shall file the contracts or agreements on employment.</p>
Definitions	41) The terms employer/contracting party refer to employers registered in the Trade Register. Information on the registered employers is available in the Finnish Business Information System (BIS), <i>www.ytj.fi</i> .

Title	23. Forest owners' know-how is improved
Criteria	The number of persons participating in supplementary training, personal or group extension, intended for the region's forest owners must be equivalent to at least 20% of the total number of forest owners in the region ⁴²⁾ .
Indicators	Statistics on training sessions for forest owners, personal ⁴³⁾ and group extension ⁴⁴⁾ in forestry centres, forest management associations, forest owners' union, forest industry companies as well as forestry schools and colleges. The statistics must include the number of participants in training and extension ⁴⁵⁾ .
Definitions	<p>42) The <u>number of forest owners</u> is equivalent to the number of forest holdings paying the forest management fee in the region applying for a certificate.</p> <p>43) <u>Personal extension</u> include among others site visits with a forestry professional, or a corresponding visit to forest holding, forest management planning and extension in implementation of forestry works with a forestry professional.</p> <p>44) <u>Group extension</u> includes training courses organized for forest owners by the parties listed in the indicator.</p> <p>45) Forest owners and other persons involved in forestry operations on the holding are counted as <u>participants</u> in the training/extension indicated in the criterion.</p>

Title	24. Responsible rights of access to forests are safeguarded
Criterion	Opportunities for free access to forests, picking of forest products and other recreational use within the scope of responsible use of rights of access ⁴⁶⁾ are safeguarded.
Indicators	There is not a significant amount of verified unjustified restrictions on the rights of access.
Definitions	<p>46) Rights of access include among other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - walking, skiing or bicycling and camping of short duration on other person's land - gathering of flowers, berries and mushrooms - gathering of dried twigs, brushwood, fallen cones and nuts - moving about on waterways, temporary anchoring, log floating, taking of household water, swimming and washing. <p>The following activities are not included in the rights of access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - setting fire - felling or damaging trees - driving in motor vehicles on terrain - gathering of protected plants, lichens, mosses and plants with wooden stems - making feeding places for game or artificial nests - moving in areas (small seedling stands, fields) where moving may endanger the economical activities of a land owner. - carrying on regular trade - littering environment <p>It is not considered as restriction of right of access if an authority restricts the access to forests for a defined period of time.</p> <p>Act on Private Roads (358/1962) enacts on the use rights and restrictions on private roads. Regarding the use of forest roads the decision of the Supreme Court 1991/819 shall be taken into consideration.</p>

Title	25. Safeguarding of Sámi culture and the traditional livelihoods in Sámi homelands
Criterion	In the Sámi homelands the management, use and protection of natural resources administered by Metsähallitus are integrated in cooperation with Sámi Parliament, reindeer herders and other representatives of traditional livelihoods to ensure the facilities for Sámi culture and traditional livelihoods.
Indicators	Metsähallitus shall use participatory planning methods in the planning of its operations in Sámi homelands. Representatives of Metsähallitus and Sámi Parliament agree on the need, level and monitoring of cooperation with the various planning processes on which Metsähallitus has requested cooperation to the representatives of Sámi Parliament. If a consensus on integration methods is not agreed on, a certification body assesses the conformity to the criterion based on the cooperation carried out.
Definitions	

Title	26. Integration of reindeer husbandry and forestry
Criterion	Forest management activities in the state forests, under the administration of Metsähallitus, and reindeer husbandry are integrated in a local level cooperation so that the conditions for reindeer husbandry are safeguarded in forest management activities on a broad and long-term basis in the region designated for reindeer herding.
Indicators	To reach this target Metsähallitus should cooperate with the representatives of reindeer husbandry when carrying out such activities that might have a significant impact on reindeer herding. The significant activities and need for cooperation shall be determined in cooperation so that the target will be achieved. The cooperation observes the Agreement ⁴⁷⁾ signed 27 February 2002 by Metsähallitus and the Reindeer Herders' Association as well as the sections of Metsähallitus Natural Resources Planning addressing the integration of forestry and reindeer husbandry.
Definitions	47) The <u>Agreement</u> , however, does not apply in the Sámi homelands.